THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that a total of 276 villages (including hamlets) in 9 mandals in three districts of Andhra Pradesh would be submerged displacing 1,77,275 Nos. people out of which 60,770 Nos. are Schedule Tribes.

(b) The State has reported that thirteen alternative sites have been studied and the present site has been selected based on technical and environmental considerations and there is no other alternative project proposal better than the present project proposal which can obviate or minimize submergence. The investment clearance for the project has not been accorded by the Planning Commission as it depends upon establishing its techno-economic viability, acceptance by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources, State Government obtaining necessary clearances from the Ministry of Environment and Forests for forest area and clearance from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Ministry of Environment and Forests has accorded clearance to the project in respect of environmental aspects.

Sanction of Sutiapat reservoir project, Rajnandgaon district, Chhattisgarh

†3035. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2965 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd August, 2005 and state::

(a) the date on which sanction was accorded to Sutiapat reservoir project of Rajnandgaon district and the date on which it was forwarded to State Finance Department for latest cost;

(b) whether Government are making any special efforts to expedite the commencement of project and also to avoid further delay;

(c) whether Government would make any special effort for expediting sanction to Kelo Project and Rajiv Augmentation Scheme (Phase-II) also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Sutiaput Reservoir Project (Medium) was accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources for an estimated cost of Rs. 46.95 crore in its 80th meeting held on 7.2.2003 subject to concurrence of the State Finance Departments which is still awaited.

(b) Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance are primarily the responsibility of State Governments based on their priorities.

(c) and (d) The major irrigation project proposals of Kelo Project and Rajiv Augmentation Scheme (Phase-II) received from the Government of Chhattisgarh in July, 2003 and November, 2004 respectively are at different stage of techno-economic appraisal. Comments on various aspects of project proposals have been sent to the State Government for compliance. The Clearance of project depends upon the promptness with which the State Government arrange satisfactory compliance to observations of Central appraising agencies.

Per capita water storage in the country

3036. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present level of per capita water storage in the country;

(b) whether there is any plan for increasing the present level to ensure appropriate water security; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The per capita water storage capacity in the country is about 207 cubic metre per year.

(b) and (c) State Governments conceive, plan and implement major, medium & minor schemes for utilization of water resources. Storage capacity of about 213 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) has been created so far. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of the various projects under construction is about 76 BCM and that for the projects under formulation is about 108 BCM.